

WAR COUNCIL COALITION BODY —GOMPERS TO BE MEMBER

Washington, March 2.—A war council to direct this country's course in event of hostilities is today in the process of formation.

It will include President Wilson, members of his cabinet and industrial experts now affiliated with the congressionally created national council of defense.

Such a war council as proposed will be strictly a coalition affair. Men of every political faith will be chosen.

The first war council will probably include more than 20 posts, departments of transportation, supplies, communication, etc., being individually supervised by "big men" of the country.

Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, will be asked to head the transportation department, it was learned.

Samuel Gompers, it is taken for granted, will head the post of director of labor in the proposed war council.

NIECE OF PITTE OFFERS TO GIVE UP HER DOWRY

Olga Vrana, niece of the aged and broken banker, Rob't Pitte, on the stand before Federal Judge Landis yesterday offered to give the creditors of the Pitte bank real estate valued at \$1,000 and diamonds worth \$500, which were given to her by her uncle as a dowry. Landis took the real estate, but indicated that he might give back the jewelry.

TWO AMERICANS LOST ON SHIP

Washington, March 2.—An official dispatch tending to confirm that two Americans were lost in the torpedoing of the British barge *Galgorn Castle*, Buenos Aires for Queenstown, reached the state department today.

Another message told of the unwarned torpedoing of the *Donaldson liner Trationian*, Halifax for Liverpool, in a night attack, but reported the one American aboard was saved.

PACIFIC COAST SMELTS FORCE DOWN NEW YORK PRICES

New York, March 2.—Ten tons of Pacific coast smelts were dumped on to the market here today in a continued attempt to force down the high price of food. They were sent into stores in Manhattan and the Bronx, where they began vying with the aristocratic Atlantic kind. The western fish are selling at 6 cents a pound and the Atlantic's offspring are trying to bring 16 cents for the same 16 ounces.

CONSOLIDATION UP TO LOWDEN

Springfield, March 2.—Both houses having passed it, the attorney general having O. K'd its constitutionality, the consolidation bill is up to Gov. Lowden for his signature. Of course, he will sign it, as he was the one who proposed the plan.

The bill combines 100 bureaus into nine departments, the heads of whom are to receive from \$5,000 to \$7,000 yearly salary. It is expected that consolidation act will do away with more than 100 state jobs.

Heads of the nine new state departments will form a governor's cabinet.

MAN AND WIFE TO SPLIT COIN

When Wm. Barteau, 72 years old, told Judge Windes that he had given his wife every cent he owned, represented by a \$50,000 building at 643 Groveland Park, and she had tried to turn him out of the house, the judge ordered the \$50,000 house sold and the proceeds divided between the scrapping pair.

LOAN SHARKS HIT

Arthur Ham, director of the loan department of the Russell Sage Foundation, said yesterday that 300 loan sharks are operating illegally in Illinois and that they are charging interest at rates which often exceed 120 per cent a year, in spite of the fact that the law limits such charges to a maximum of 7 per cent.